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Washington's Election.
[George Alfred Townsend in Chicago Tribune.]
On a Tuesday morning the fourteenth of
April, 1879, a venerable old gentleman with
fine eyes, an amiable countenance, and long,
white locks, rode into the lawn of Mount Ver-
non, coming from Alexandria. Two gentle-
men of the latter town accompanied him. It
was between ten and eleven o'clock. A negro
man sallied out to take the bags, and the old
gentleman, entering the mansion, was received
by Mrs. Washington.

"Why, Mr. Thompson," said the good lady,
"where are you from, and how are your people?"
"From New York, madame," answered the
old man. "I come to Mount Vernon upon a
good errand—for the country at least. The
General has been elected President of the
United States under the new constitution, and
I am the bearer of the happy tidings in a let-
ter from John Langdon, President of the Sen-
ate."

The General was out visiting his farm, how-
ever, and the guests were entertained for two
or three hours as we take care of our visitors
in the country nowadays. A glass of the Gen-
eral's favorite Madeira, imported in the cases,
was probably not the worst provision made for
them, and the cheerful gossip of Mrs. Wash-
ington, who had known Mr. Thompson and vis-
ited his house in Philadelphia, helped to en-
liven the time. This grave and respected old
man was the link between the new government
at New York and the new magistrate at Mount
Vernon. Charles Thompson had been the Sec-
retary through all its eventful career, of the
Continental Congress which had directed the
cause of the colonies from desultory revolt to
independence and union, and now he had rid-
den over the long and difficult roads to appraise
the first President of the republic of the wishes
of his countrymen.

At one o'clock General Washington rode in-
to the lawn of Mount Vernon, in appearance
what Custer, his adopted son, has described:
"An old gentleman, riding alone, in plain drab
clothes, broad brimmed hat, a buckskin
switch in his hand, and carrying an umbrella
with a long staff, which is attached to his
saddle bow. The umbrella was used to shelter
him from the sun, for his skin was tender and
easily affected by its rays. Washington greet-
ed Mr. Thompson with grave cordiality, as
was his wont, inquiring for his family, and
divining already the object of his visit, broke
the seal of John Langdon's official letter. Dan-
iel followed, and, while the visitors retired to
converse or stroll about the grounds, the Pres-
ident-elect wrote a letter to the President of
the Senate and sent it forthwith to the post-
office at Alexandria by a servant.

The letter was as follows:
"MOUNT VERNON 14th April, 1879.
SIR: I had the honor to receive your official
communication by the hand of Mr. Secretary
Thompson about 1 o'clock this day, having
comprehended to be important and flattering
call of my country, and having been impressed
with the idea of the expediency of my being
with Congress at as early a period as possible,
I propose to commence my journey on Thurs-
day morning, which will be the day after to-
morrow."

This done, the rest of the day passed in con-
ferences between Washington and his wife, in
the preparation of his baggage for the un-
expected journey, while, meantime, the dis-
tinguished guest was assisted by the young of-
ficial household in the library and grounds.—
There was another female dear to the newly-
elected President, and he kept her in filial re-
membrance at the very moment of his greatest
promotion.

It was growing late in the evening of the day
on which our chapter opens, when Washington
mounted his horse, and followed by his man
Bill, rode off into the woods of Virginia with
speed. His destination was Fredericksburg,
nearly forty miles away, with two ferries be-
tween—one at the Occoquan, the other at the
Rappahannock. His purpose was to see his
old father, now about eighty years of age and
drawing near the grave. It had been long since
he had visited him, but he could not feel equal
to the responsibilities of his great office until he
should receive his blessing. Few candidates
for the Presidency in our day would leave a
warm mansion, filled with congratulating friends,
to ride all night through the chilly April mists,
to say adieu to a very old woman.

But thus piously the administration of Wash-
ington began. He passed old Pohick church,
of which he was a vestryman—soon to tumble
to ruins—crossed the roaring Occoquan, and by
its deep and picturesque gorge, where passed
the waters of the future bloody Bull Run, and
by night he saw the old churches of Aquia
and Potomac rise against the sky; he saw the
decaying spire of Dumfries. In the morning
he was at Fredericksburg, and his mother was
in his arms. Marches, perils, victories, hon-
ors, power surrendered in that look of helpless
love, too deep for pride to show through its
tears, and the President of the new State was
to be a new-born babe again no dearer, no
greater.

He was just in time, for she had had the
short season of summer to live, and like many
dying mothers, life seemed upheld, at four-
score and five, by waiting in love until he should
come. History is ceremonious as to what passed
between them, but the parting was solemn
and touching, like the event. "You will see me
no more," she said, "my great age and dis-
ease warn me that I shall not be long in this
world. But go, George, to fulfill the destiny
which Heaven appears to assign you. Go, my
son, and may Heaven's and your mother's
blessing be with you always."

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with lax. The head is troubled with
pain, and dull, heavy sensation, con-
siderable loss of memory, accompanied with painful sensation
of having left undone something
which ought to have been done, often
complaining of weakness, dizziness,
and hot and cold. Sometimes many of
the above symptoms attend the
disease, and at other times very few;
but the Liver is generally
the organ most involved.

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